

A Centaur's Life



story & art
KEI MURAYAMA

4





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Vol. 4



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SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

A Centaur's Life

story and art by KEI MURAYAMA

VOLUME 4

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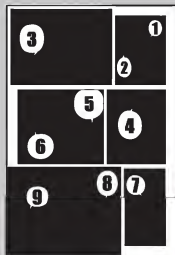
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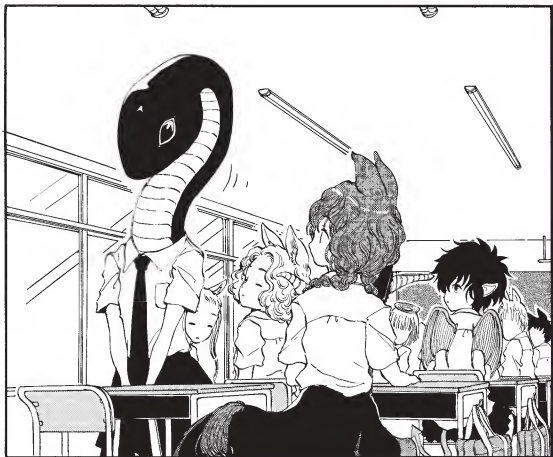
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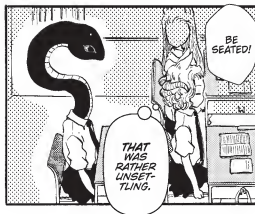
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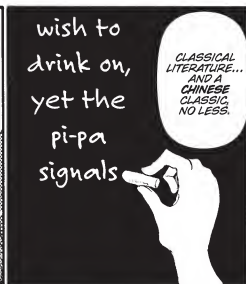


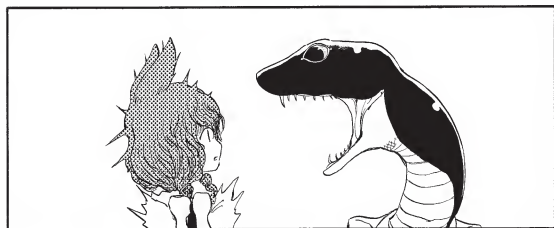
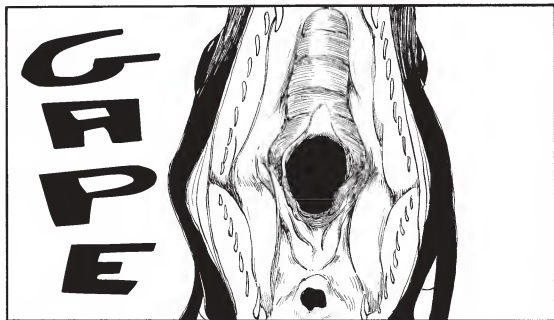


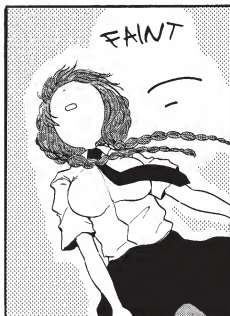
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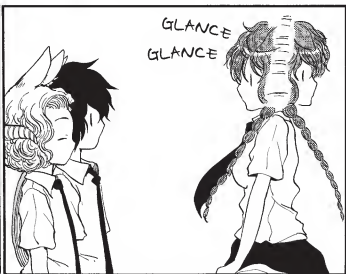
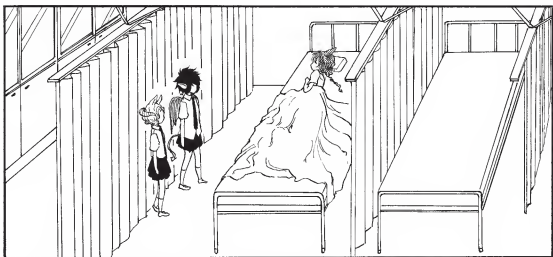


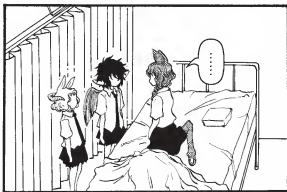
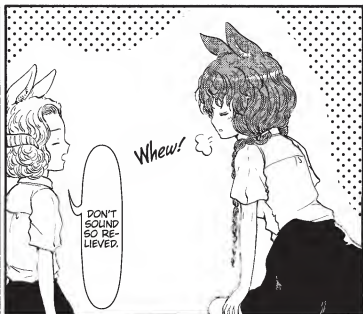




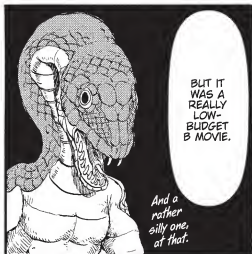






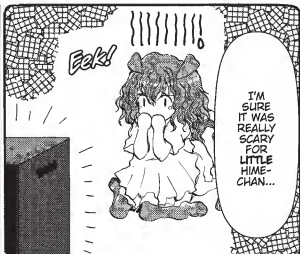






BUT IT
WAS A
REALLY
LOW-
BUDGET
B MOVIE.

*And a
rather
silly one,
at that.*



Eek!

I'M
SURE
IT WAS
REALLY
SCARY
FOR
LITTLE
HIME-
CHAN...



DO YOU
HAVE A
BETTER
IDEA?

*I
dunno...*



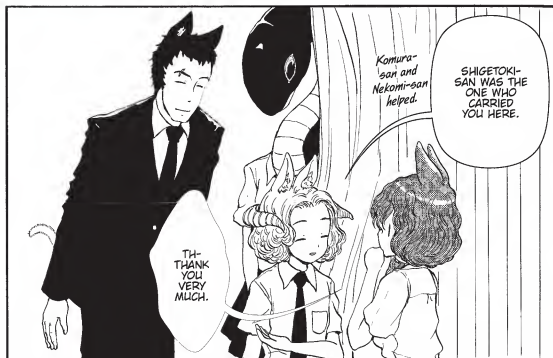
*That
would
cure
her
fear.*

I'M
SURE IF
SHE SAW
IT NOW,
SHE'D
SEE HOW
RIDICU-
LOUS
IT IS.

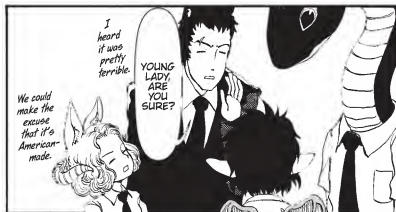


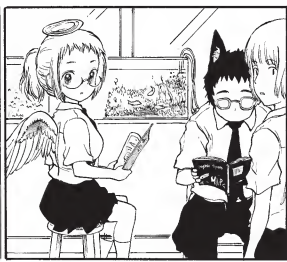
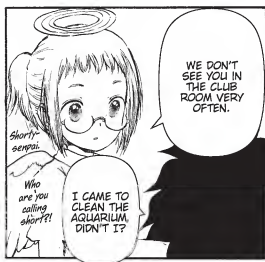
DO I LOOK
LIKE A
PROFESSIONAL
WRESTLER?

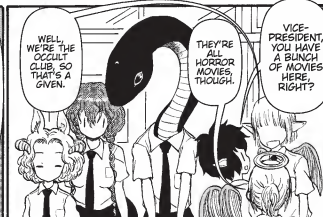
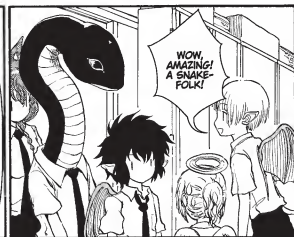
WAIT...
DID YOU
TWO...
CARRY
ME
HERE?

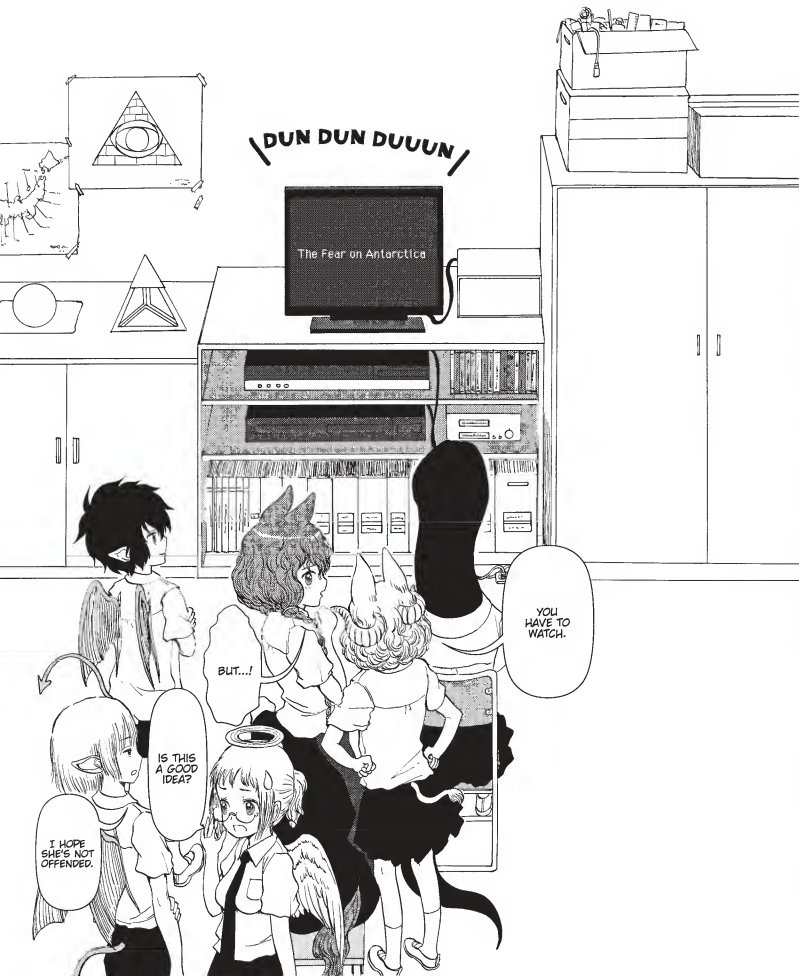




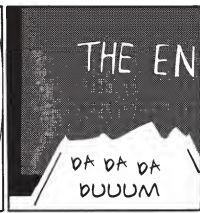




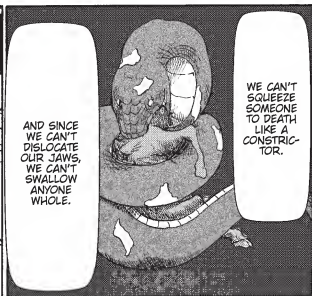
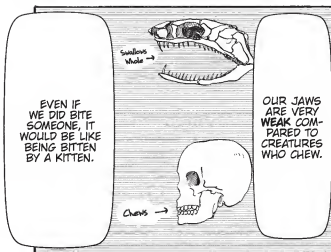
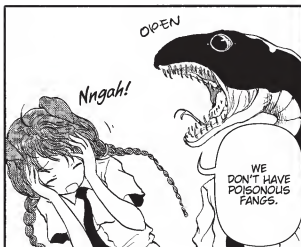












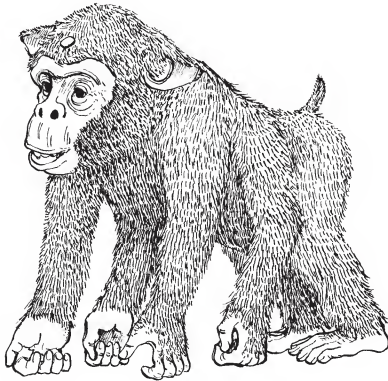


A CentaUr's Life

EXPLORING HUMAN ANCESTRY: FAMILY HOMINIDAE

THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF FAMILY HOMINIDAE ARE CHIMPANZEES, GORILLAS, ORANGUTANS, AND HUMANS. ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTHER GREAT APES VASTLY DIFFERS FROM THAT OF HUMANS, IT CAN SOMETIMES BE DIFFICULT TO TELL THEM APART FROM OUR OWN APE-LIKE ANCESTORS. THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE OTHER HOMINIDS CONTINUED KNUCKLE-WALKING WHILE HUMANS EVOLVED TO STAND UPRIGHT. OUR FELLOW GREAT APES HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO USE TOOLS AND HAVE EVEN LEARNED AND USED LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE WITH HUMANS.

THE OTHER GREAT APES, LIKE OTHER MAMMALS ASIDE FROM THE HUMAN SPECIES, HAVE ONLY A SINGLE BODY MORPHOLOGY. AMONG VERTEBRATES, ONLY HUMANS AND PEOPLE OF THE ANTARCTIC (SNAKEFOLK) HAVE HUGE MORPHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN A SINGLE SPECIES. BOTH SPECIES ARE INTELLIGENT WITH ADVANCED LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE, A FACTOR THAT IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE GREAT EVOLUTIONARY IMPORTANCE.

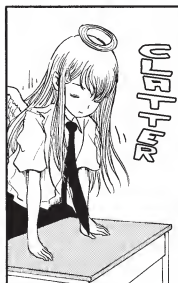
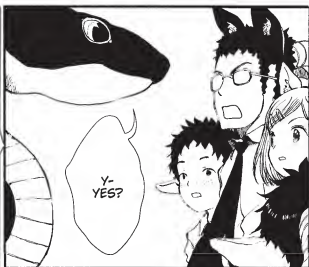


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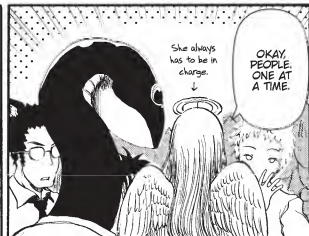




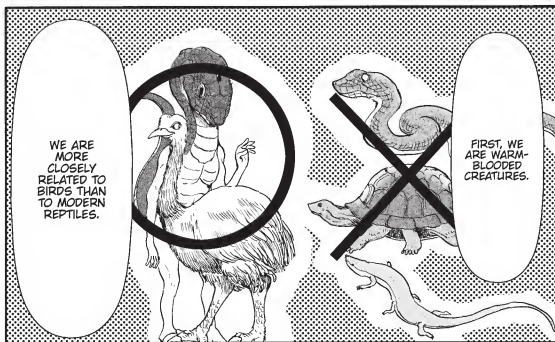
MAY I ASK
YOU SOME
QUESTIONS,
PLEASE?!

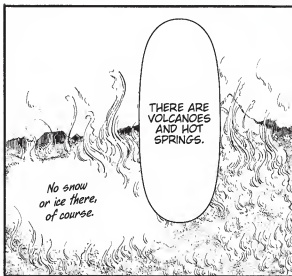


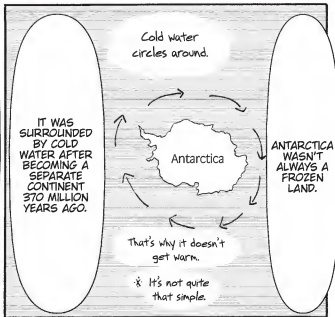
OKAY, I'LL GO FIRST.

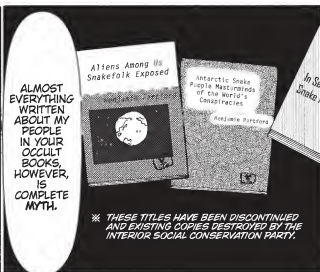
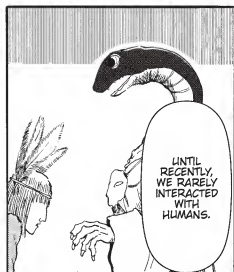
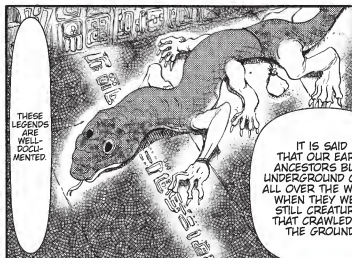


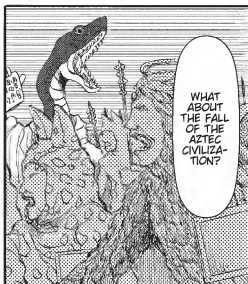
She always has to be in charge.

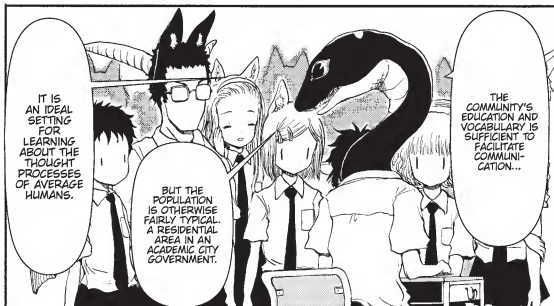
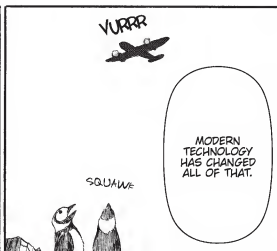


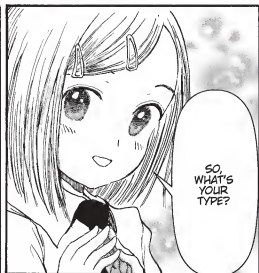
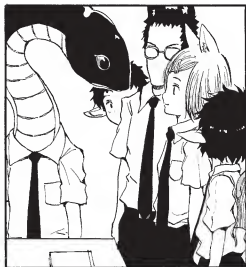














MOST
OF OUR
POPULA-
TION IS
FEMALE,
INCLUDING
THE WAR-
RIORS.

Oh
wow.



Dramatization

I HAVE
NEVER
PERSON-
ALLY
SEEN THE
QUEEN.

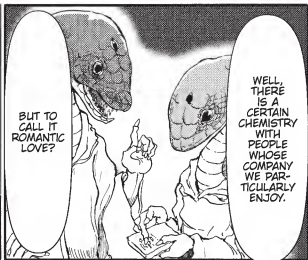
AMONG
MY
PEOPLE,
ONLY THE
QUEEN
CAN LAY
EGGS.

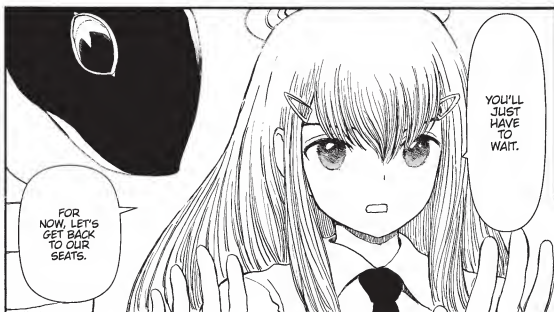
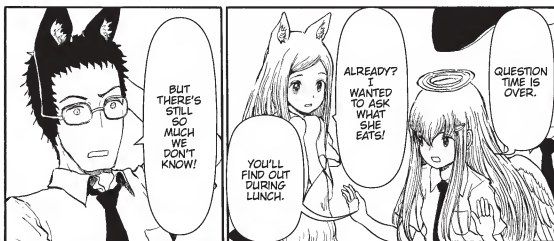


YOU SAID
TYPICALLY.
DOES THAT
MEAN THERE
ARE SOME
CASES?



SO
ROMANTIC
LOVE,
AS YOU
KNOW IT,
TYPICALLY
DOESN'T
EXIST.





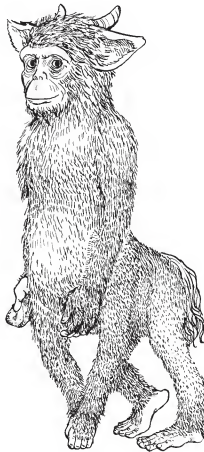
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EXPLORING HUMAN ANCESTRY: GENUS AUSTRALOPITHECUS

AN EXTINCT GENUS OF HOMINID THAT LIVED IN AFRICA FROM ABOUT 3.9 MILLION TO 1.7 MILLION YEARS AGO. AUSTRALOPITHECINES ARE WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE ANCESTORS OF MODERN HUMANS, PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR EVOLUTION. THEY WERE ONCE THE OLDEST KNOWN HOMININ, BUT THE DISCOVERIES OF ARDIPITHECUS KADABBA AND ARDIPITHECUS RAMIDUS HAVE THROWN THAT STATUS INTO CONTENTION.

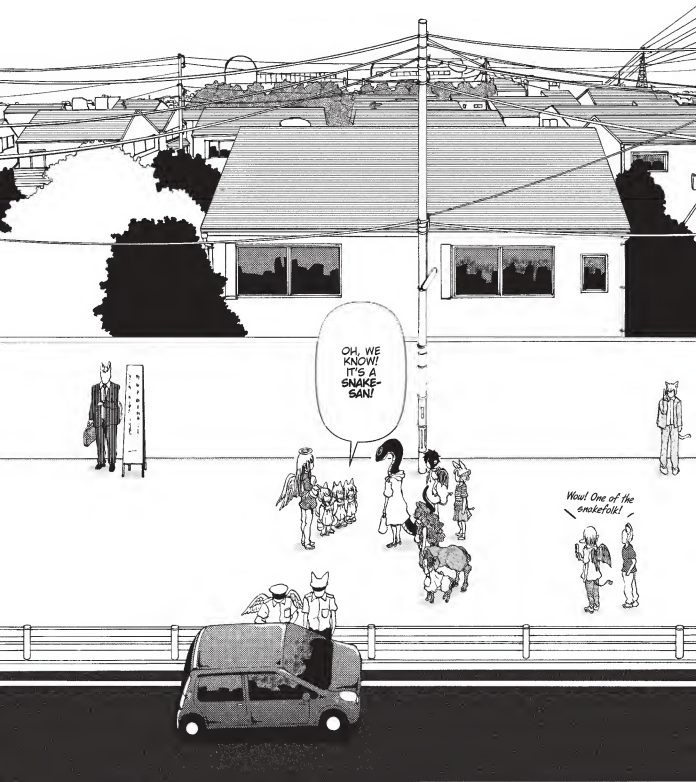
AVERAGE MALE SPECIMENS OF AUSTRALOPITHECINE SUBSPECIES STOOD ROUGHLY 4'3" TALL. RESEARCHERS SUGGEST THAT THEY MAY HAVE RESEMBLED UPRIGHT VERSIONS OF MODERN BONOBOS. ONLY SIX-LIMBED BODY MORPHOLOGIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE FOSSIL RECORD, WITH THE MIDDLE AND HIND LIMBS CLEARLY ADAPTED FOR TRAVEL. THEY GENERALLY LIVED ON OPEN SAVANNAHS, WHILE ARDIPITHECUS PREFERRED WOODLAND ENVIRONMENTS. AUSTRALOPITHECINE BRAINS WERE SMALL--ABOUT 1/3RD THE SIZE OF MODERN HUMAN BRAINS, AND ONLY SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE BRAINS OF MODERN CHIMPANZEES.

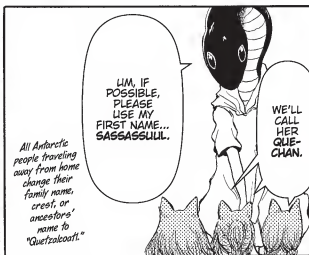
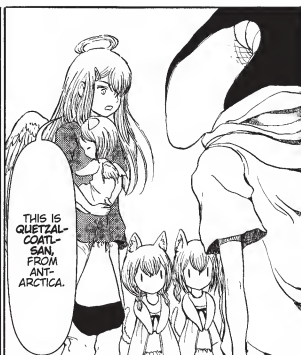
AUSTRALOPITHECINES WERE ABLE TO USE TOOLS LIKE OTHER MEMBERS OF FAMILY HOMINIDAE, BUT THEY WERE LONG BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CREATE STONE TOOLS. A RECENT STUDY, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT AUSTRALOPITHECUS AFARENSIS DID USE STONE TOOLS AS EARLY AS 3.4 MILLION YEARS AGO. AUSTRALOPITHECINE COMMUNICATION WAS LIKELY LIMITED TO CALLS AND CRIES RATHER THAN ORGANIZED LANGUAGE. A. AFRICANUS AND A. AFARENSIS ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALOPITHECINE SUBSPECIES WITH REGARD TO THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN HUMANS.

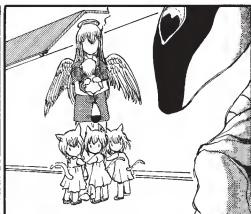
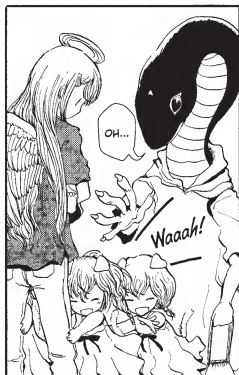


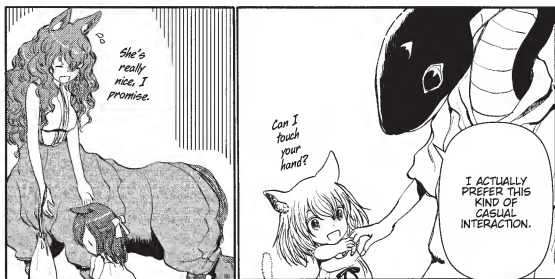


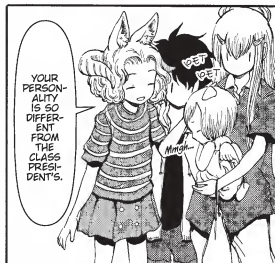
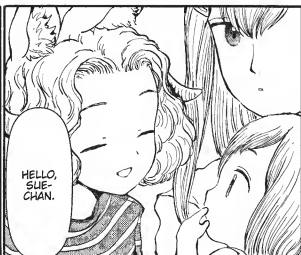
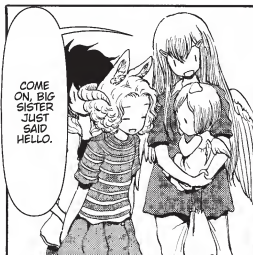
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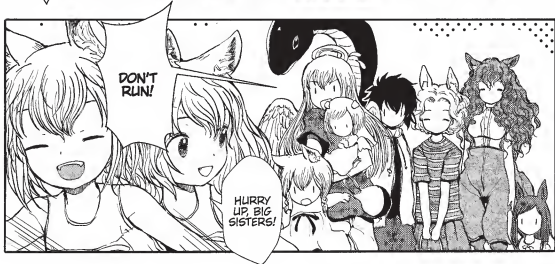
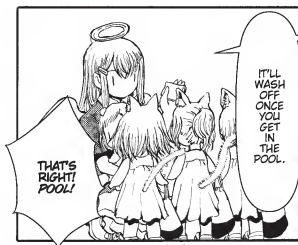
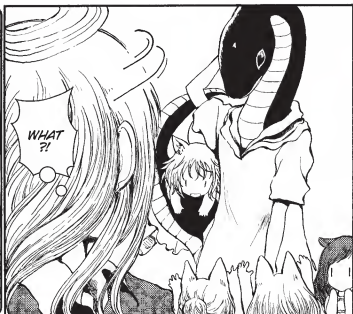
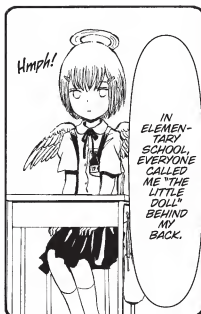


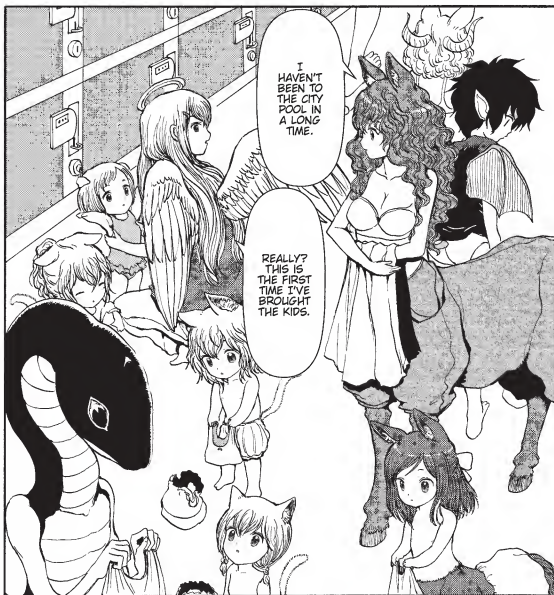
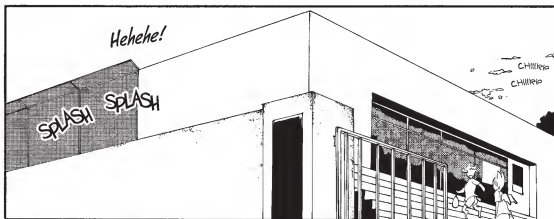


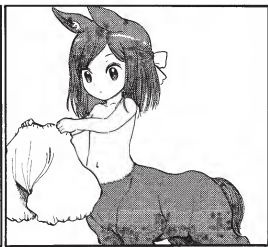
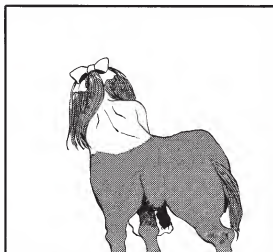


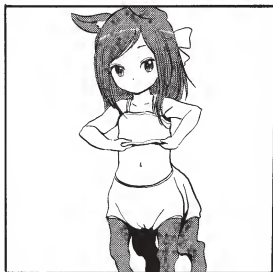
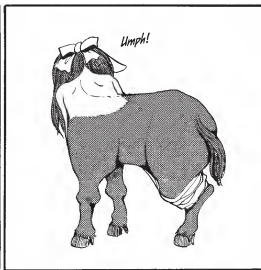
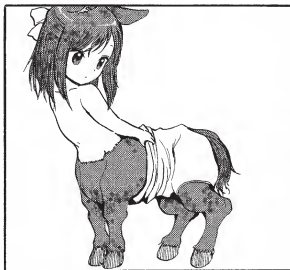


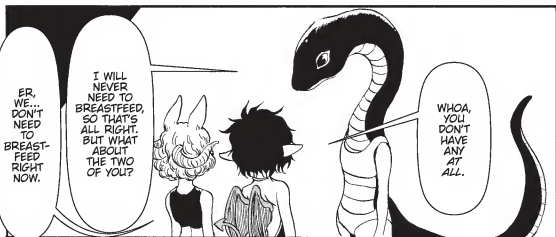
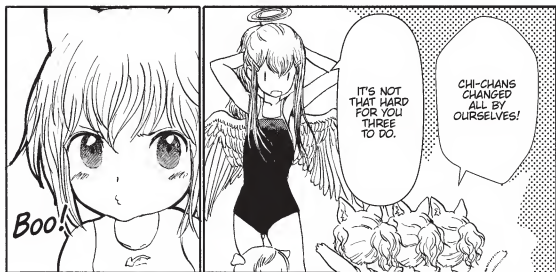
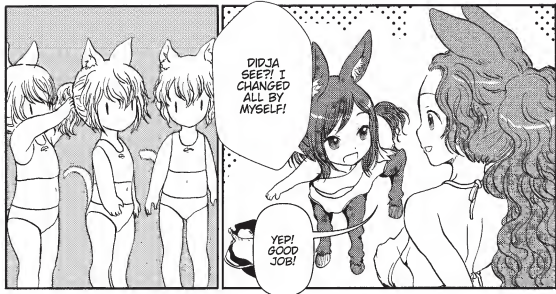


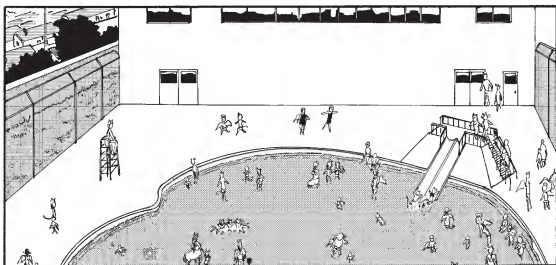


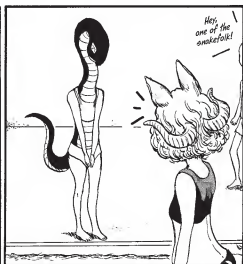
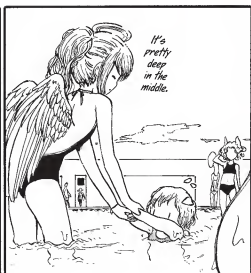
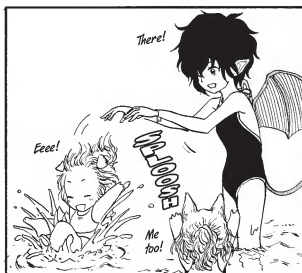


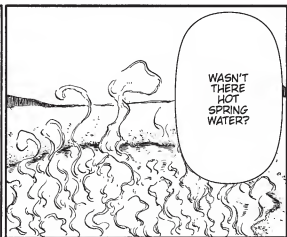
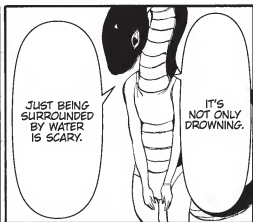
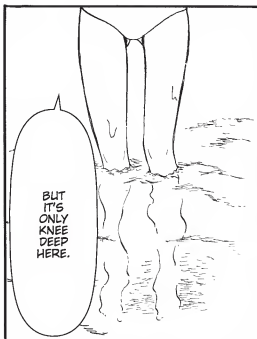


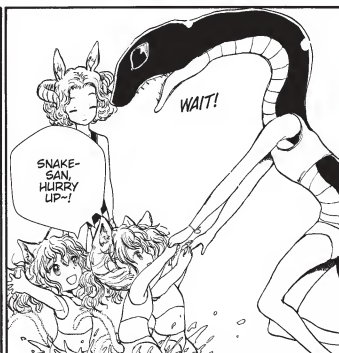
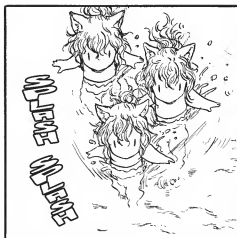


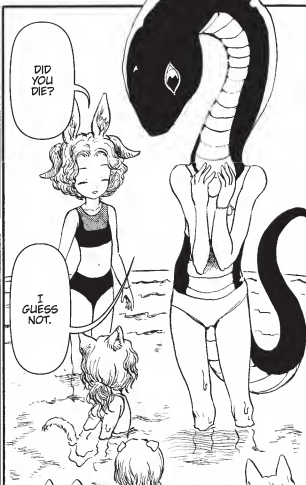
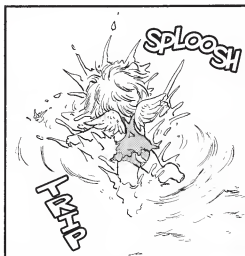
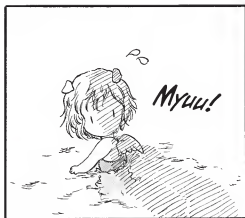


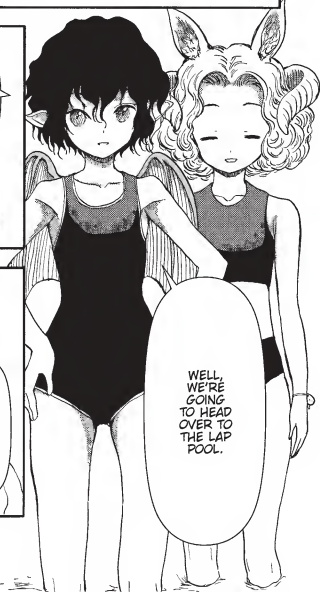
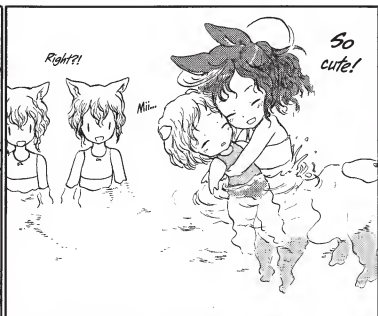
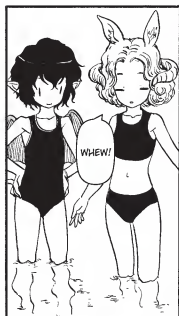


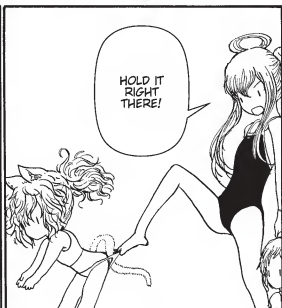
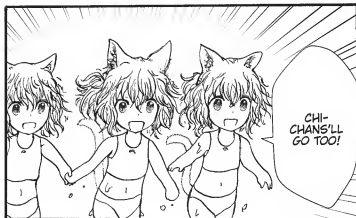
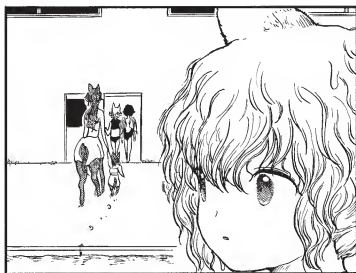


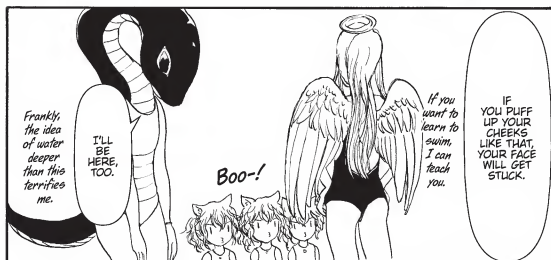
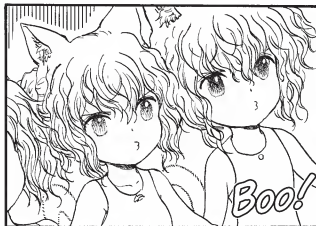
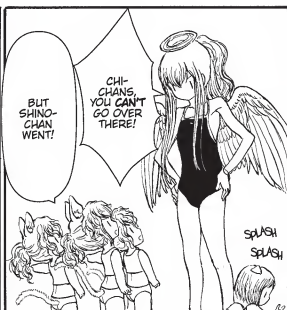


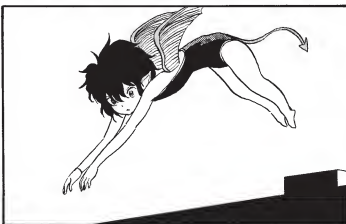
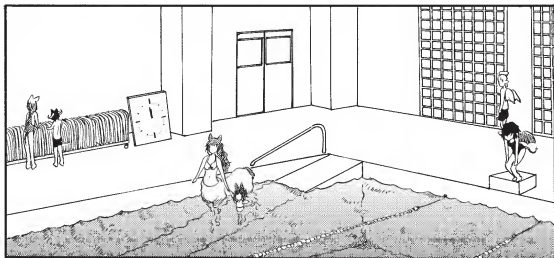


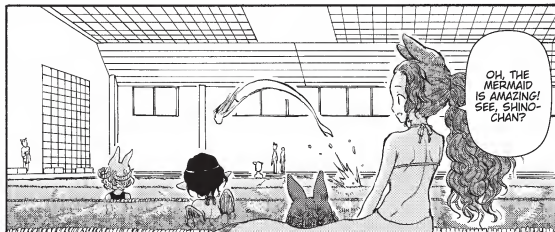
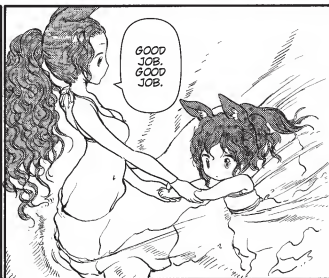
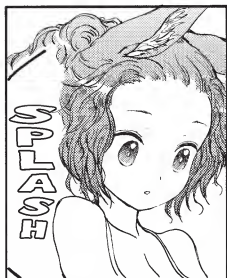


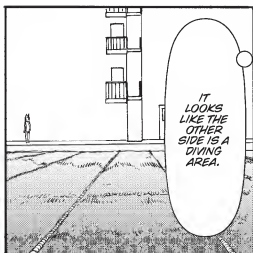












IT LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER SIDE IS A DIVING AREA.



UH-OH. IT'S GETTING DEEP...



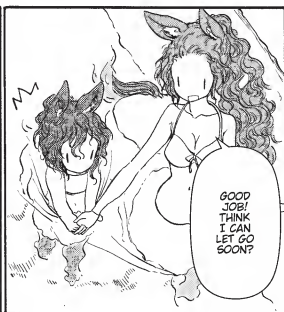
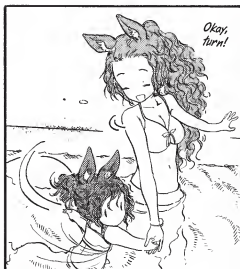
OKAY, LET'S TURN AROUND.

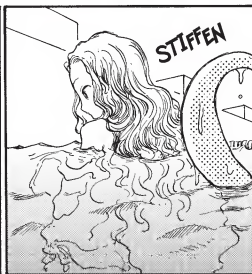
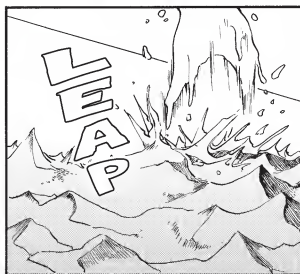
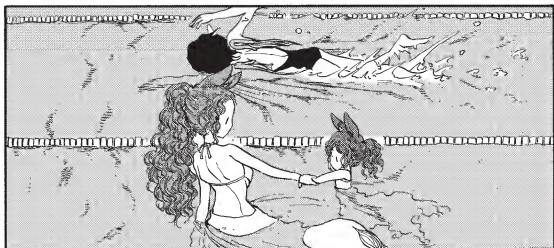


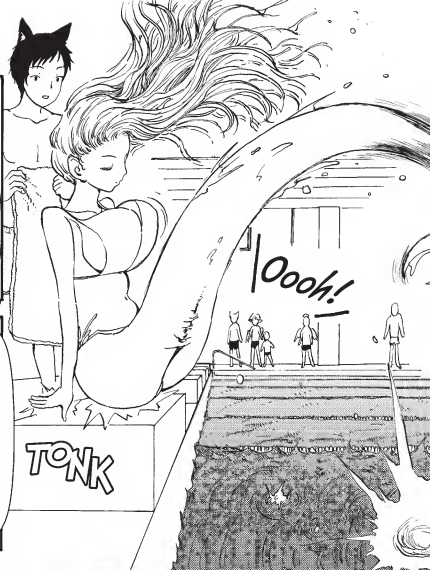
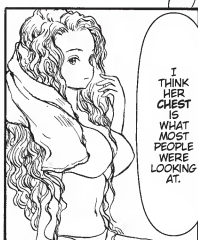
NOPE... BECAUSE I WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH THE BOTTOM PAST HERE.

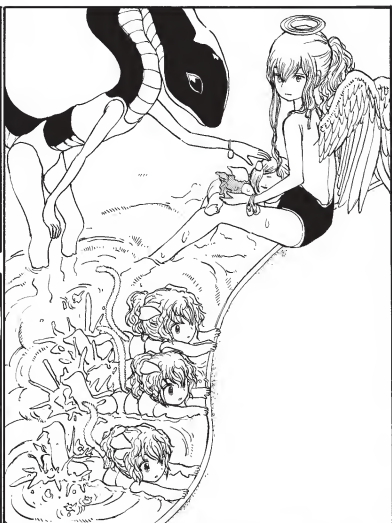
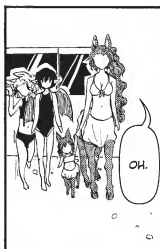


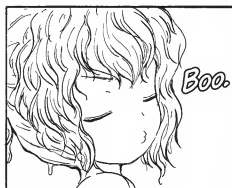
WE AREN'T GOING TO THE END?

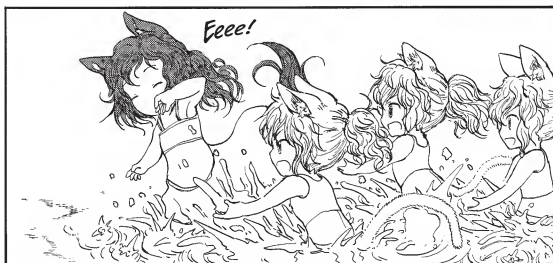
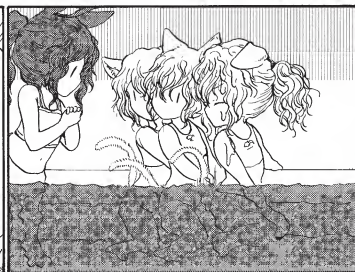


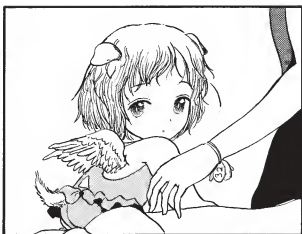


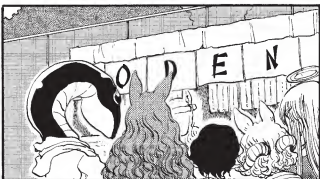


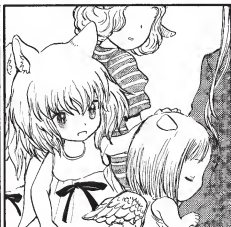
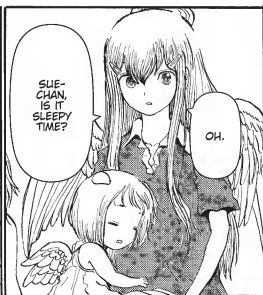


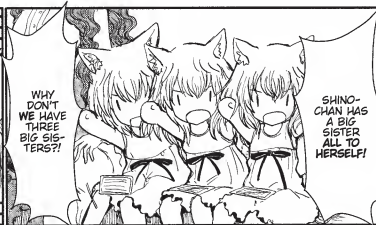
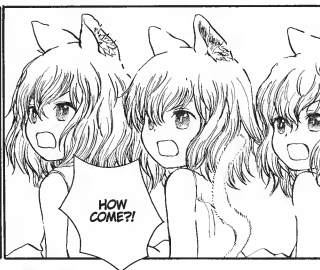






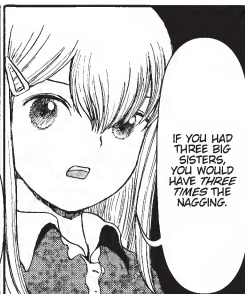








DON'T
LIKE
THAT...



IF YOU HAD
THREE BIG
SISTERS,
YOU WOULD
HAVE THREE
TIMES THE
NAGGING.



HEY!
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?!

Nyaa?



WELL,
TODAY IS
SPECIAL,
SO YOU
CAN ALL
NAP.

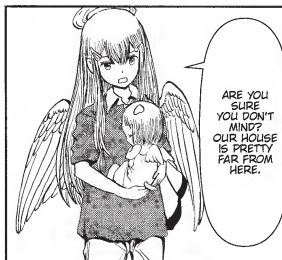


Nya!



TODAY,
THERE
ARE
THREE
OTHER
BIG
SISTERS
HERE.





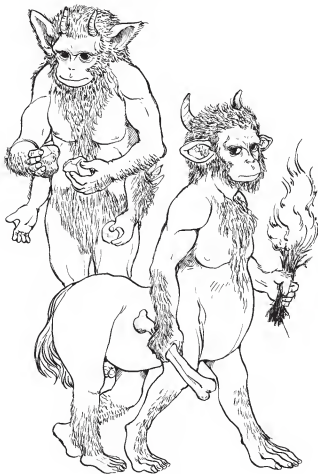
A CentaUr's Life

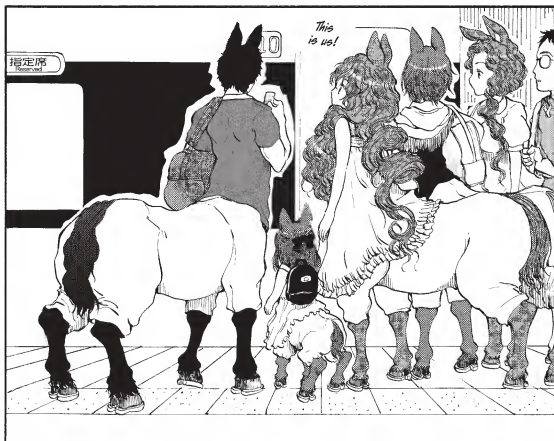
EXPLORING HUMAN ANCESTRY: SPECIES HOMO ERECTUS

PROBABLY A DISTANT ANCESTOR OF MODERN HUMANS, *HOMO ERECTUS* EXISTED APPROXIMATELY 1.9 MILLION TO 150,000 YEARS AGO. FIRST FOUND ON THE ISLAND OF JAVA, IT WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED *PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS* UNDER THE *HOMO* GENUS. *HOMO* IS THE GENUS OF GREAT APES THAT INCLUDES MODERN HUMANS (*HOMO SAPIENS*) AND CLOSELY RELATED SPECIES. THIS CATEGORY DOES NOT ONLY INDICATE GENETIC AND STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES, BUT ALSO EVOLUTIONARY STEPS TOWARD CIVILIZATION.

THERE ARE SUBSPECIES THAT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN AFRICAN AND ASIAN POPULATIONS OF *HOMO ERECTUS*, BUT THE CLASSIFICATION IS STILL A MATTER OF SOME DEBATE. SOME SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT *HOMO ERGASTER* AND *HOMO ERECTUS* SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE SAME SPECIES. THEIR SKULL CAVITIES WERE ABOUT 850-1150CC, WHICH IS FAIRLY CLOSE TO MODERN HUMANS. THEY WERE RELATIVELY TALL, WITH AVERAGE MALES STANDING ABOUT 5'10", WITH SLENDER BUILDS AND LONG LIMBS. THEY CREATED STONE TOOLS AND MAY HAVE USED RAFTS FOR SEA TRAVEL. EVIDENCE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THEY MAY HAVE USED FIRE.

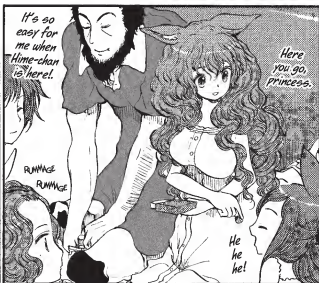
HOMO ERECTUS FOSSILS INDICATE AN IMPORTANT PHYSIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCE FROM THEIR PREDECESSORS--BOTH TWO-LEGGED AND FOUR-LEGGED BODY MORPHOLOGIES EXISTED WITHIN THE SPECIES. IT IS A WIDELY ACCEPTED THEORY THAT THIS IS THE POINT IN EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY WHERE THE MODERN HUMAN RACES BEGAN TO DEVELOP. IT IS CONSIDERED LIKELY THAT *HOMO ERECTUS* WAS CAPABLE OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE. WITH THEIR USE OF TOOLS, LANGUAGE, AND THE COEXISTENCE OF BODY MORPHOLOGIES IN THE SAME SPECIES, *HOMO ERECTUS* GIVES US OUR FIRST GLIMPSES OF MODERN HUMANITY.

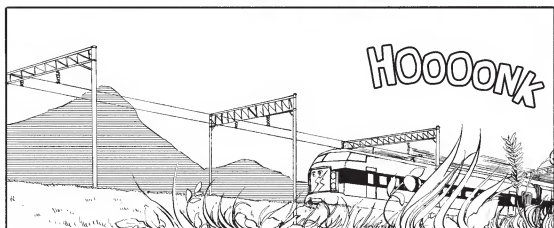
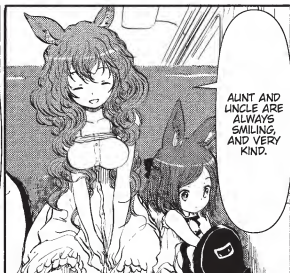


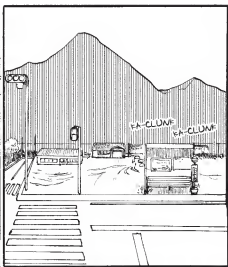
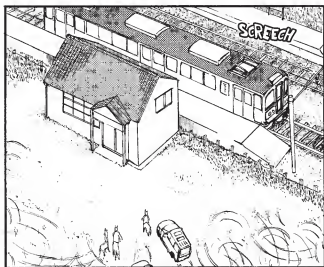


CHAPTER 18









I get
really
nervous
around
your
Dad.

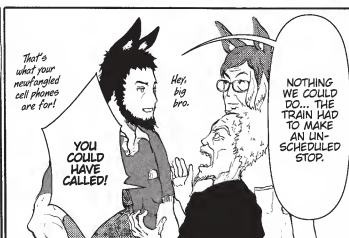
The air
tastes
great!!

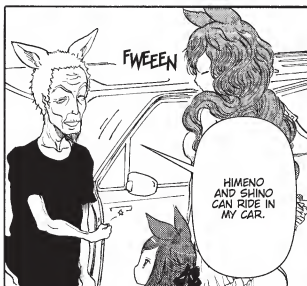
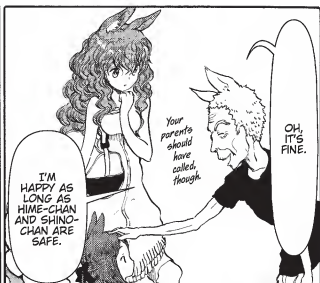
Is that
why you
drank?

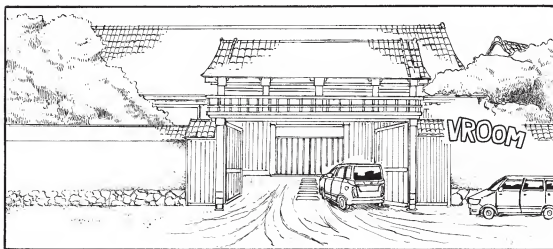
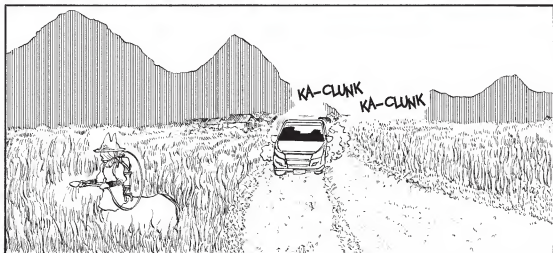
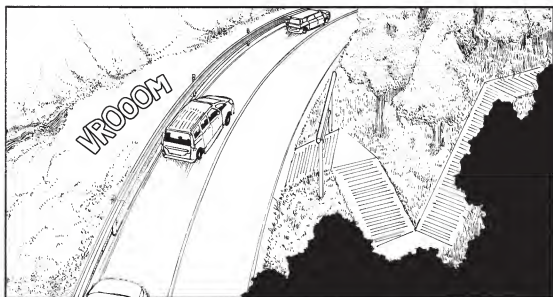
Don't worry,
we have Shino
and Hime-chan.

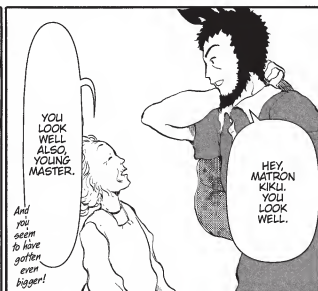
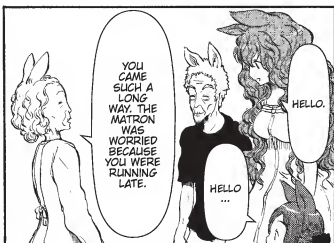
Shino-
chan,
are you
sleepy?

I'm
always
surprised
by how
rural this
place is.











Your
rooms
have all
been
prepared.

Kiko-san,
get a stool
for Shino
as well.



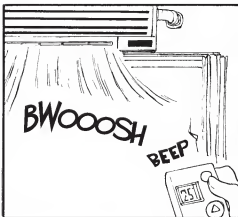
It's fine,
Rino-san.
Please sit
down.

Oh, let
me do
that.



HELLO,
GRANDMA.

THANK
YOU FOR
COMING.

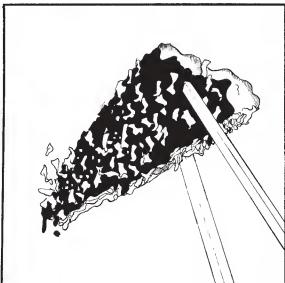
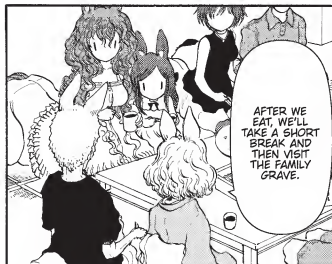
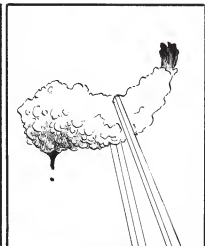
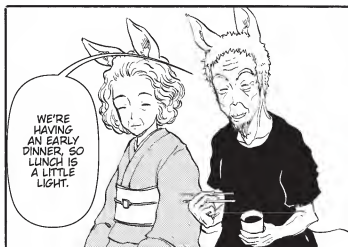


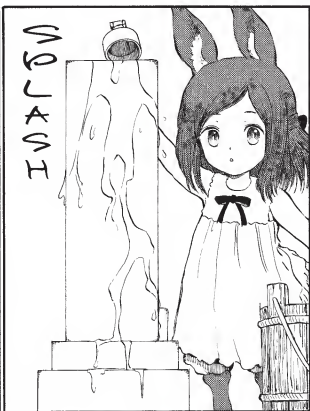
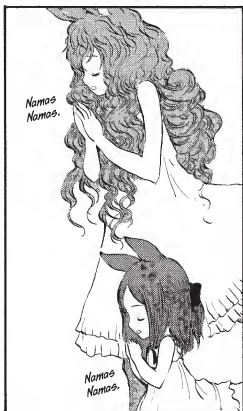
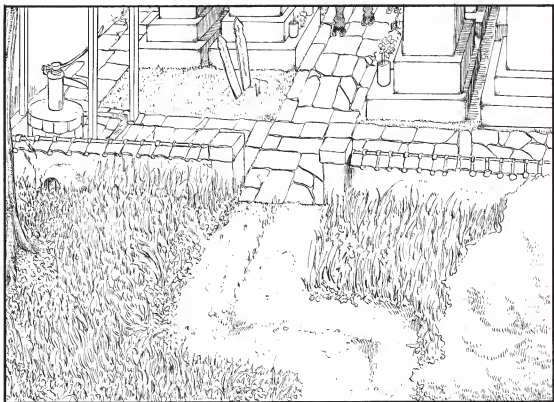
Uh,
n-no
more
alcohol
today.

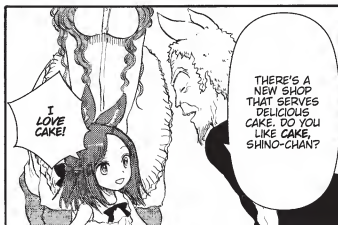
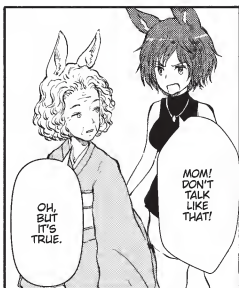
Yoshio-kun,
what do
you want
to drink?

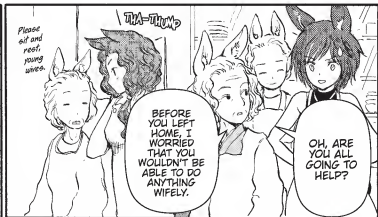
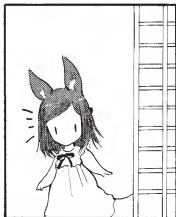
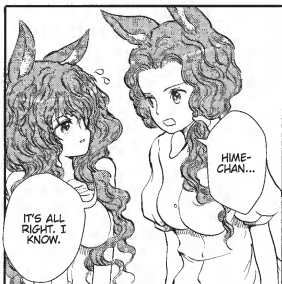
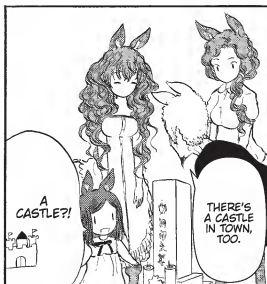


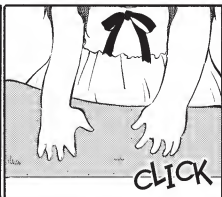
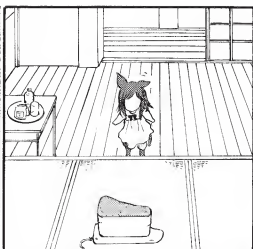
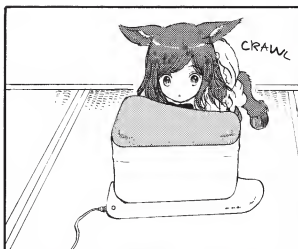
OKAY,
EVERYONE,
LET'S EAT.

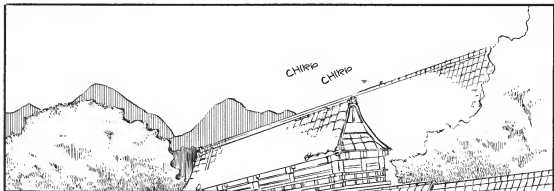


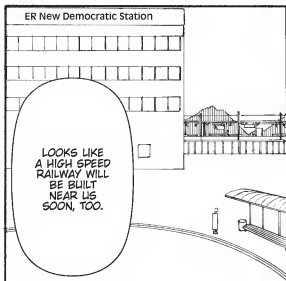
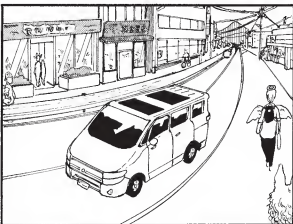
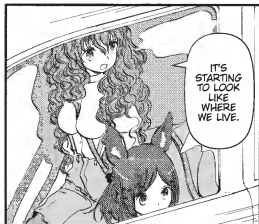
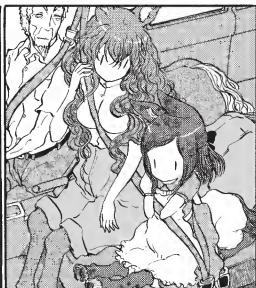
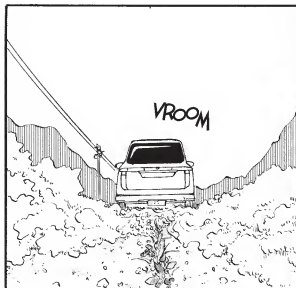


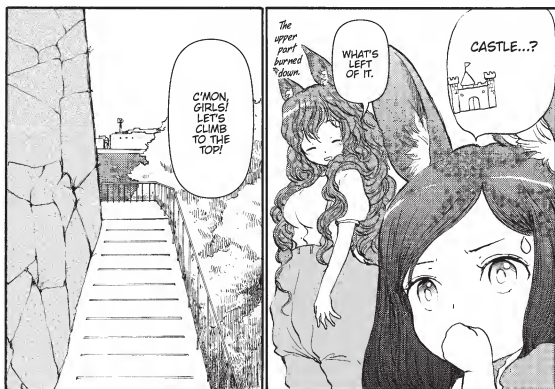
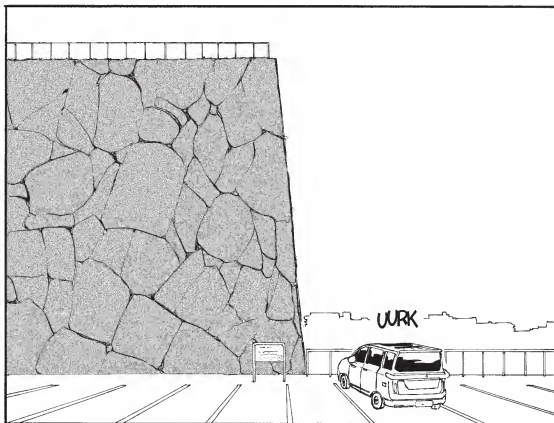


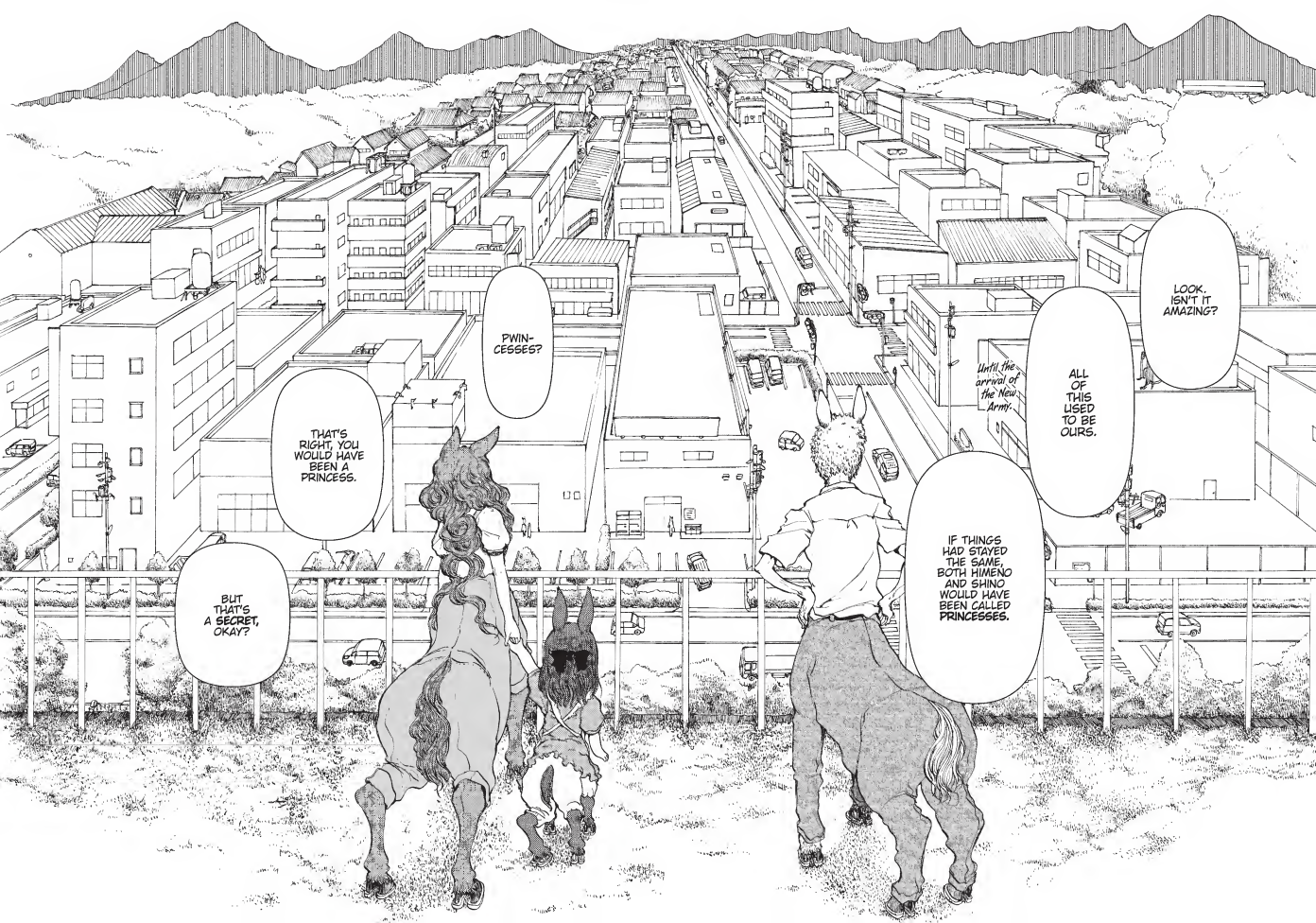












BUT
THAT'S
A SECRET,
OKAY?

THAT'S
RIGHT, YOU
WOULD HAVE
BEEN A
PRINCESS.

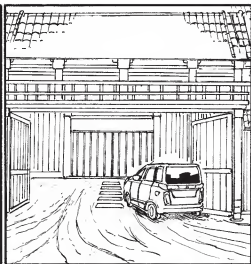
PWIN-
CESSES?

Until the
arrival of
the New
Army.

IF THINGS
HAD STAYED
THE SAME,
BOTH HIMENO
AND SHINO
WOULD HAVE
BEEN CALLED
PRINCESSES.

ALL
OF
THIS
USED TO BE
OURS.

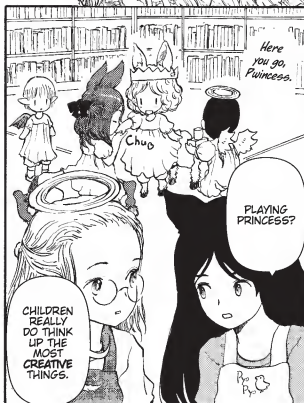
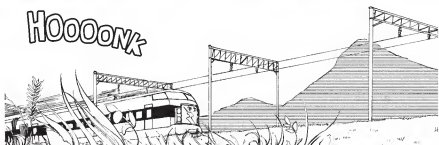
LOOK.
ISN'T IT
AMAZING?







HOOOONK



A CentaUr's Life

EXPLORING HUMAN ANCESTRY: NEANDERTHALS

THEIR OFFICIAL NAME IS *HOMO NEANDERTHALENSIS*, THOUGH SOME ARGUE THAT THEY WERE A SUBSPECIES OF *HOMO SAPIENS* (*HOMO SAPIENS NEANDERTHALENSIS*). THEY EXISTED FROM ROUGHLY 600,000 TO 30,000 YEARS AGO. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY AS TO WHETHER NEANDERTHALS INTERBRED WITH MODERN HUMANS.

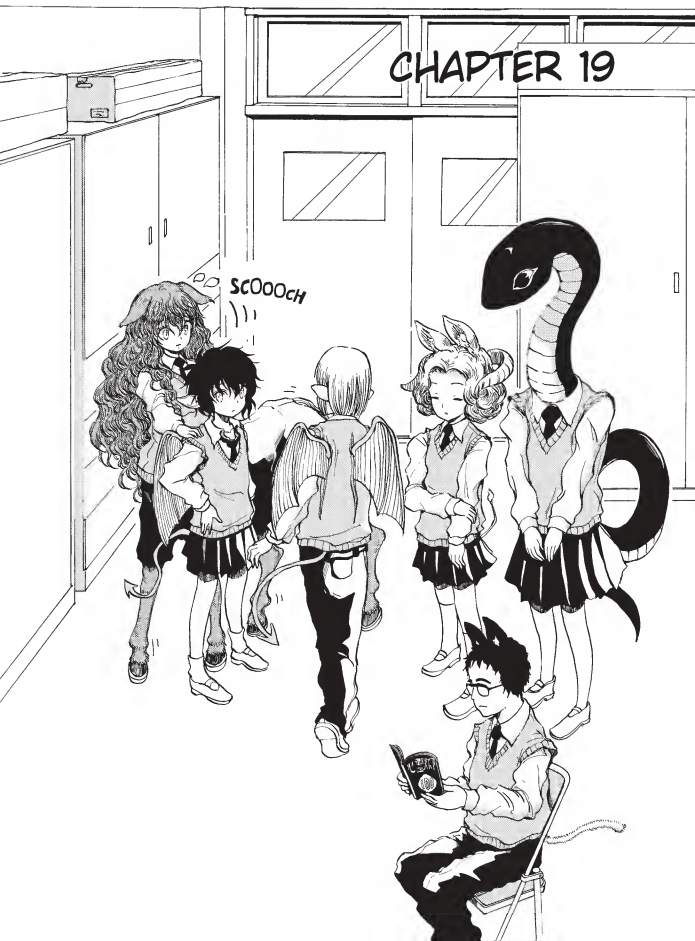
THEIR AVERAGE SKULL CAPACITY WAS 1600CC, WHICH IS LARGER THAN THE AVERAGE MODERN HUMAN. THEY WERE SLIGHTLY SHORTER, THE AVERAGE MALE STANDING ABOUT 5'5" TALL, BUT THEY WERE VERY STURDILY BUILT. THEY HAD POWERFUL JAWS AND PROMINENT BROWS. COMPARED TO MODERN HUMANS, NEANDERTHAL FACES SLOPED FORWARD. EARLY ARTISTIC RECONSTRUCTIONS OF NEANDERTHALS DEPICTED THEM AS HAIRY AND APE-LIKE, WHICH HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN CARRIED THROUGH INTO POPULAR CULTURE. MODERN RECONSTRUCTIONS BASED ON MORE CURRENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEPICT NEANDERTHAL TO LOOK MUCH MORE LIKE MODERN HUMANS. NEANDERTHALS MADE TOOLS, DRESSED THEMSELVES IN LEATHER AND FUR, LIVED IN COMPLEX SOCIAL GROUPS, CREATED WORKS OF ART, AND PROBABLY COMMUNICATED WITH A SPOKEN LANGUAGE. EVIDENCE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THEY PRACTICED RITUAL BURIAL OF THEIR DEAD.

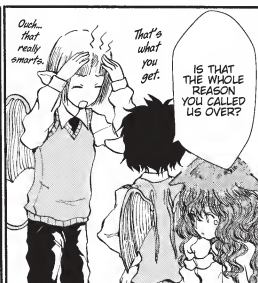
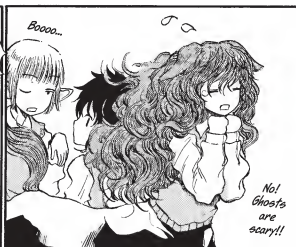
ARGUABLY, THE LARGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEANDERTHAL AND MODERN HUMANS LIES IN BODY MORPHOLOGY. ALTHOUGH MANY NEANDERTHAL FOSSIL SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN FOUND, ALL OF THEM ARE OF THE ANGELFOLK MORPHOLOGY. THE LEADING HYPOTHESIS IS THAT ONLY ANGELFOLK WITH THEIR PROTECTIVE WINGS WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE EXTREMELY COLD WINTERS. RESEARCHERS POINT TO MODERN POPULATIONS OF INUIT AND SIMILAR GROUPS LIVING EXCLUSIVELY IN COLD CLIMATES, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM ARE ANGELFOLK. NEANDERTHALS SEEM TO HAVE GONE EXTINCT APPROXIMATELY 30,000 YEARS AGO. SOME THEORIZE THAT THIS WAS DUE TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THEIR SINGLE BODY MORPHOLOGY.

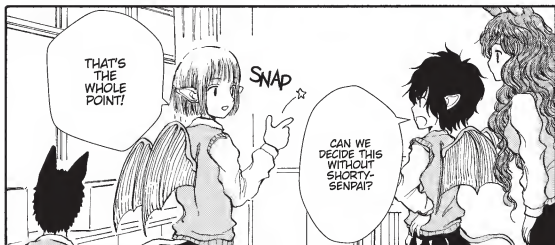
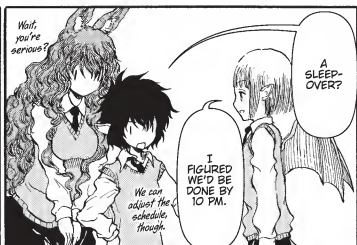


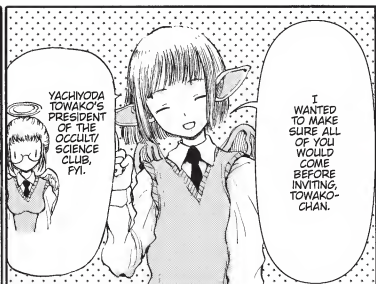


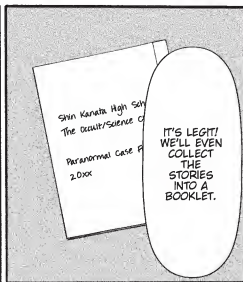
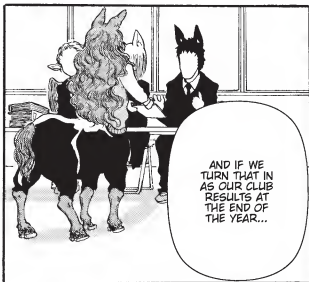
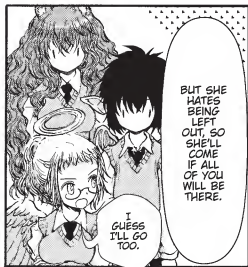
CHAPTER 19

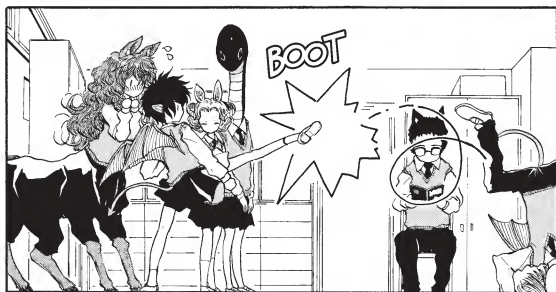


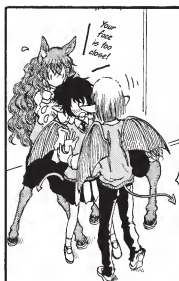












Your
face
is too
close!

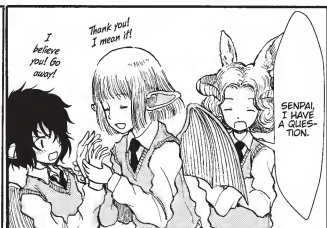
YOU'RE
GONNA
SEXUALLY
HARASS
ME,
TOO?!

STEP
STEP
STEP

I JUST
WANT
TO SHOW MY
APPRECIATION,
IS ALL! HERE,
I'LL HUG
YOU, TOO!



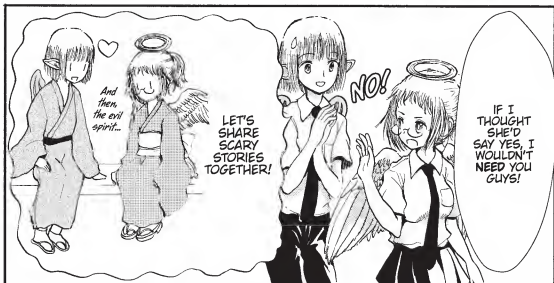
IF YOU
LIKE HER,
WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
ASK HER
OUT?



I
believe
you! Go
away!

Thank you!
I mean it!

SENPAI,
I HAVE
A QUES-
TION.



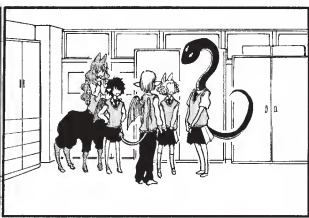
And
then,
the evil
spirit...

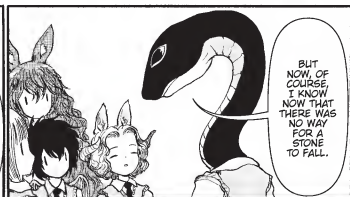
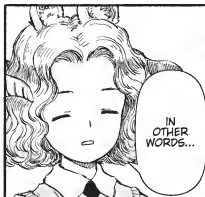
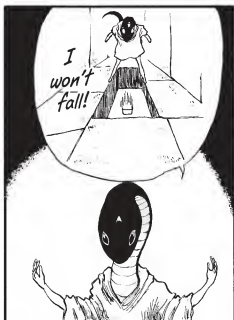
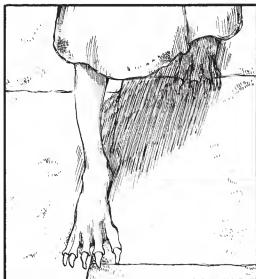
LET'S
SHARE
SCARY
STORIES
TOGETHER!

NO!

IF I
THOUGHT
SHE'D
SAY YES, I
WOULDN'T
NEED YOU
GUYS!







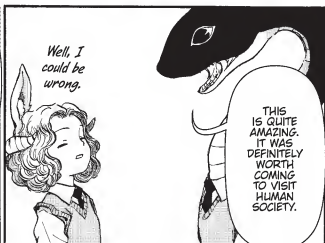


ANTARCTIC
PEOPLE
HAVE THE
CAPACITY FOR
SUPERSTITION...

BUT THEIR
ULTRA-LOGICAL
CULTURE MAKES
SUPERSTITIOUS
BELIEFS
IRRATIONAL.



SO YOU'LL
ALL HELP
ME OUT,
RIGHT?



Well, I
could be
wrong.

THIS
IS QUITE
AMAZING.
IT WAS
DEFINITELY
WORTH
COMING
TO VISIT
HUMAN
SOCIETY.



YES!
I'M SO
HAPPY!!



IF
HIME
SAYS
SHE'S
GOING...

I
DON'T
REALLY
CARE,
BUT...

AS
LONG AS
EVERYONE
ELSE IS.

DEFINITELY.
IT'S AN
EXCELLENT
CHANCE TO
EXPERIENCE
YOUR
CULTURE.



WELL....
EXCEPT
YOU.



EACH?!

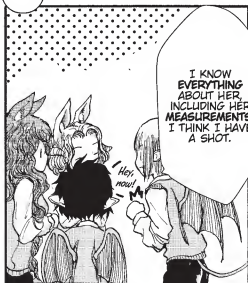
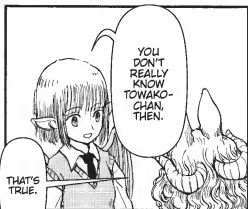
OKAY,
EVERYONE
PREPARE
AT LEAST
TEN SCARY
STORIES.



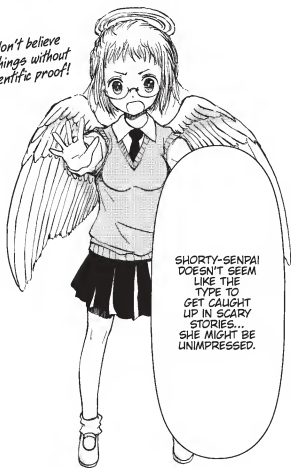
I'M KIND
OF EXCITED
ABOUT THOSE
STORIES.

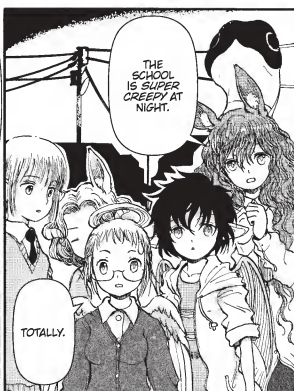
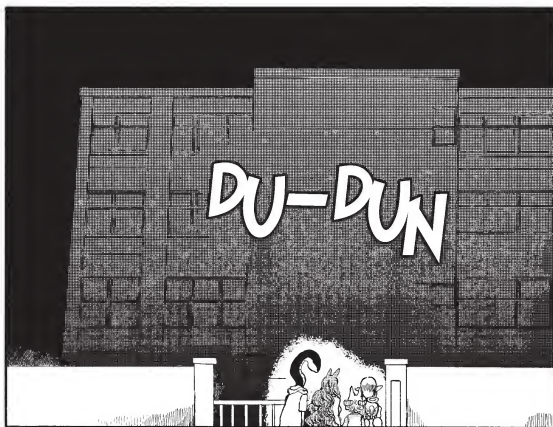


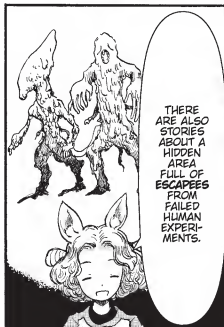
THERE
ARE NO
GHOSTS OR
MONSTERS,
BUT I DO
HAVE A FEW
ILLOGICAL
STORIES.

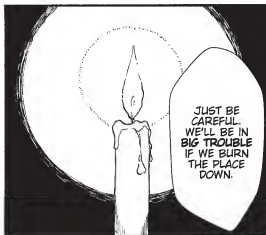
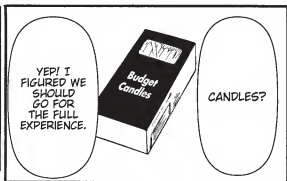
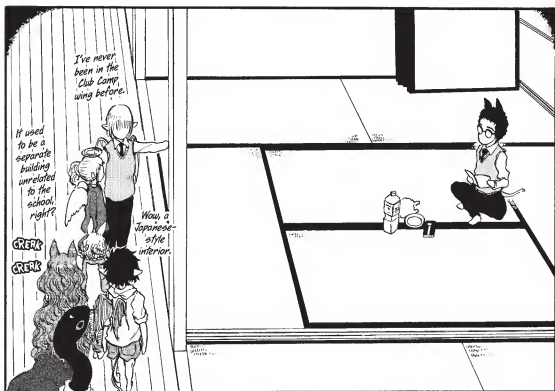


I don't believe in things without scientific proof!

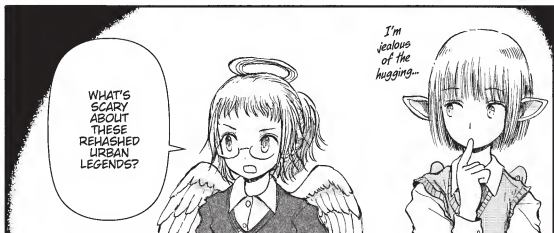
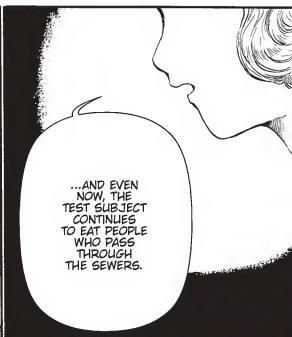


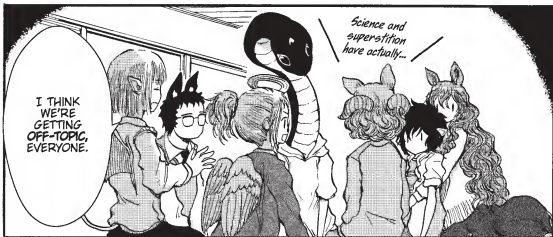
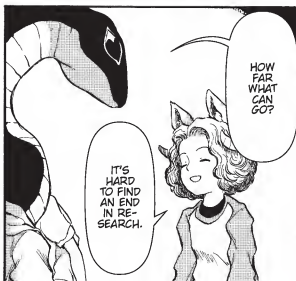


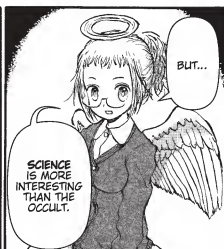
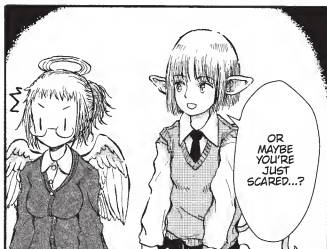


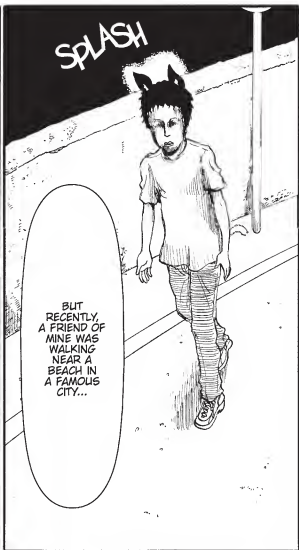
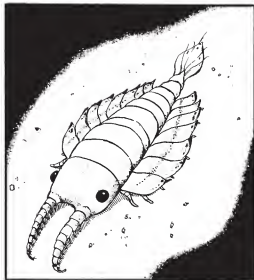
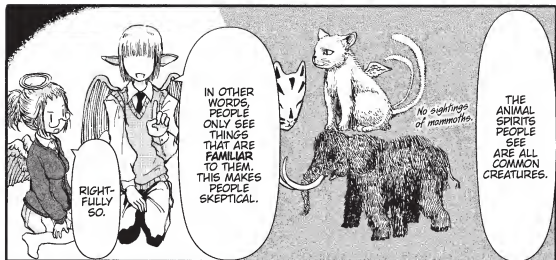


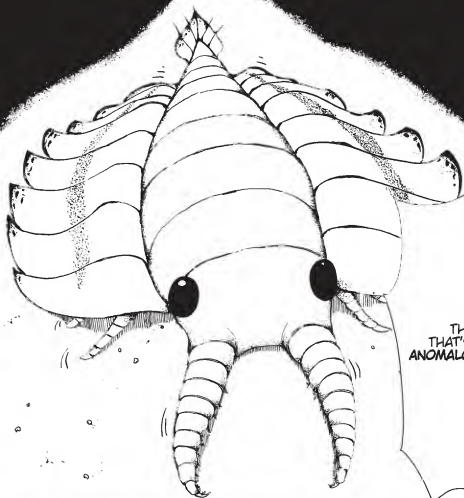




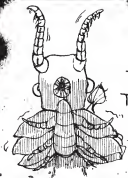








TH-
THAT'S AN
ANOMALOCARIS!

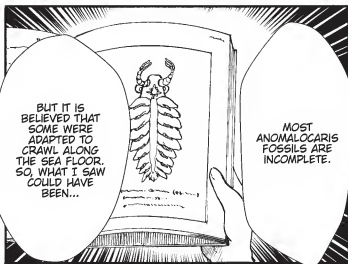
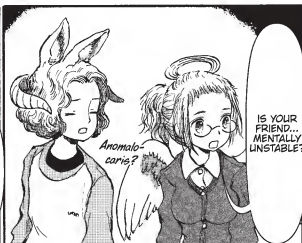


TAP
TAP



I SAW
T ON
THAT TV
SPECIAL!
BUT IT WAS
AQUATIC,
WASN'T
IT...?

EHK ANCIENT
CREATURES
TV SPECIAL





THE
GHOST OF
AN ANOMA-
LOCARIS!

A CentaUr's Life

EXPLORING HUMAN ANCESTRY: CRO-MAGNON

MODERN HUMANS (*HOMO SAPIENS*) APPEARED ROUGHLY 200,000 YEARS AGO AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISPERSED AROUND THE WORLD. A GROUP OF EUROPEAN EARLY MODERN HUMANS CALLED THE CRO-MAGNON EXISTED ROUGHLY 45,000 TO 22,000 YEARS AGO. THE FIRST CRO-MAGNON REMAINS WERE FOUND IN A LARGE CAVE IN SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE. TO THE NEANDERTHALS WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN LIVING IN EUROPE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, THE CRO-MAGNON WERE A NEW PEOPLE. CRO-MAGNON WERE ANATOMICALLY SIMILAR TO MODERN HUMANS, ESPECIALLY EUROPEANS. THEY MADE STONE TOOLS, DID CAVE PAINTINGS, AND CREATED BONE SCULPTURES. KNOWN CRO-MAGNON BODY MORPHOLOGIES INCLUDE ANGELFOLK, DRACONIDS, CATFOLK, GOATFOLK, AND CENTAURS. NO MERFOLK OR WERETIGER REMAINS HAVE BEEN FOUND, MOST LIKELY DUE TO THEIR SMALL POPULATIONS.

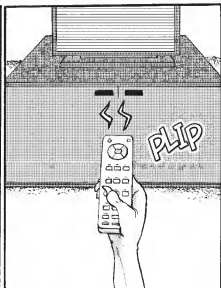
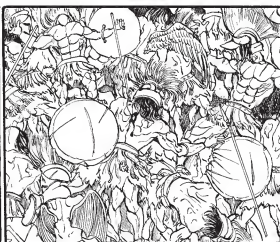
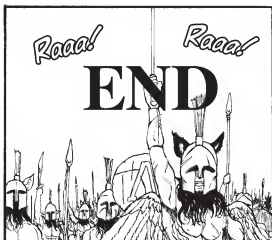
THERE ARE CURRENTLY MORE THAN 7 BILLION *HOMO SAPIENS* IN EXISTENCE, AND THAT NUMBER CONTINUES TO GROW. HUMANS NOW LIVE IN PLACES ONCE BELIEVED TO BE UNINHABITABLE, FROM LAND TO SEA TO SKY. REGARDLESS OF THE SUCCESS OF THE SPECIES, HOWEVER, EVENTUAL EXTINCTION IS INEVITABLE.

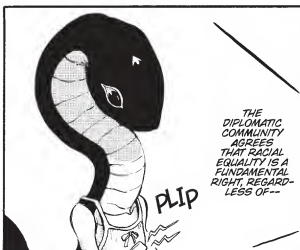
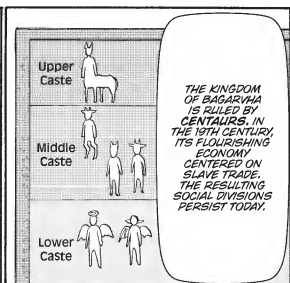


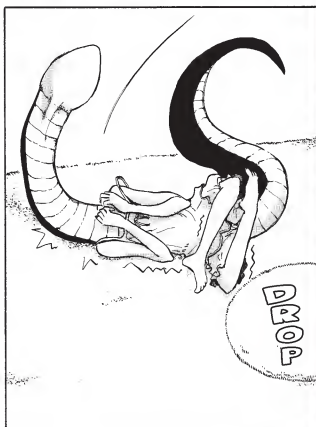


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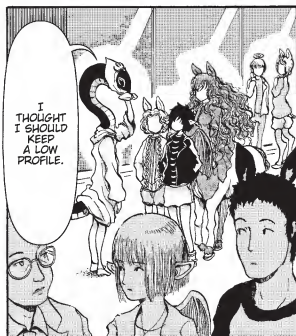
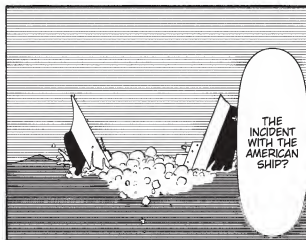










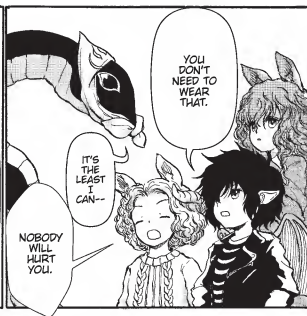






YOU
SHOULD
BE FINE
HERE.

BESIDES,
THAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING WITH
AMERICA.



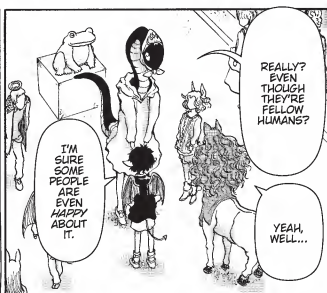
YOU
DON'T
NEED TO
WEAR
THAT.

IT'S
THE
LEAST
I
CAN--

NOBODY
WILL
HURT
YOU.



SULI-
CHAN,
YOU
ALWAYS
WEAR
THE
SAME
CLOTHES.



REALLY?
EVEN
THOUGH
THEY'RE
FELLOW
HUMANS?

I'M
SURE
SOME
PEOPLE
ARE
EVEN
HAPPY
ABOUT
IT.

YEAH,
WELL...



ON A
DIFFERENT
NOTE...





MY TUTOR COACHED ME IN EVERYTHING, INCLUDING "COMMON SENSE" AND SOCIAL INTERACTION.



OF COURSE. ALL LIVING CREATURES GAIN INFORMATION IN ROUGHLY THE SAME WAY.

YOU HAVE A TUTOR? SO YOU LEARN BY STUDYING?

IT LOOKS FEMININE.

Not by sleep learning or something?



ARE YOU REQUIRED TO WEAR THOSE?

NO. OF COURSE NOT.

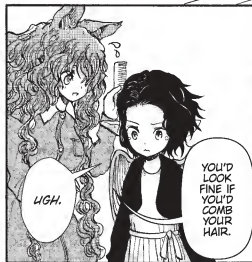


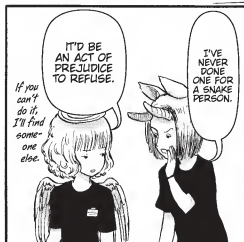
THEN WHY DON'T WE GO SHOPPING?

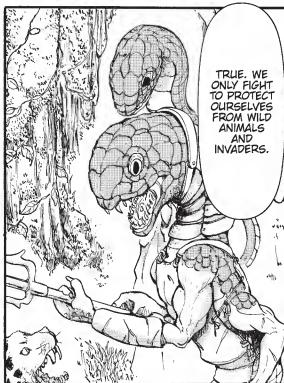


NO, I'M TRULY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE HELP I'VE RECEIVED.

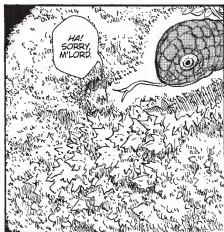
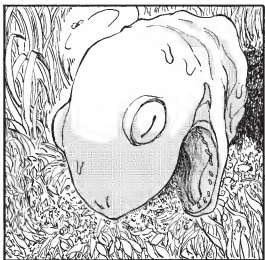
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, HUH?



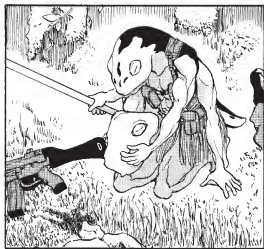


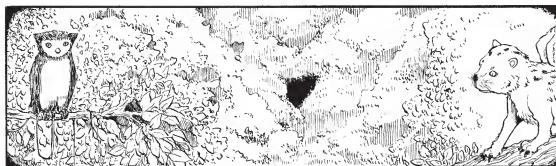
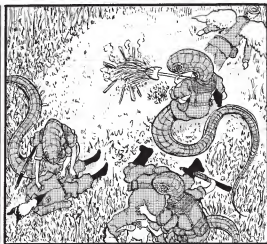
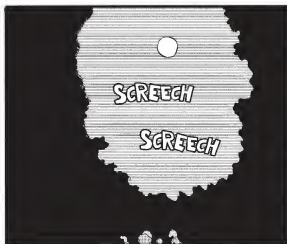
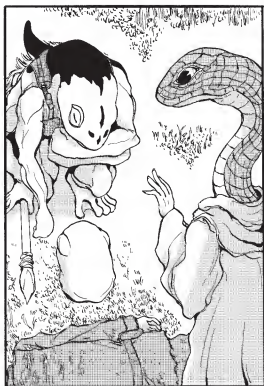










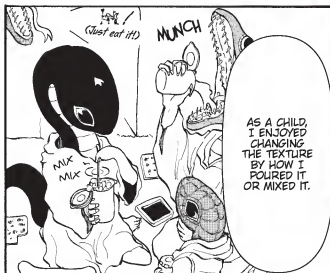




A CentaUr's Life

AFTERWORD...





KATA-SHI DEVELOPS IN HIDACHI

Without waiting for the army of the imperial court, Kata no Sadamori [方貞盛] settled Kata no Masakado's rebellion and gave the territory to his nephew, Ikan. His Mimori management office (a military facility housing personnel, weapons, food, and other materials) was located in what is now the Tamiyama district of Kanata City. Today, it is an elementary school playground.

The mild climate and abundant flat land in southern Hidachi prefecture—including Kanata City—were highly prized, leading to endless armed conflicts over territorial disputes. Kata no Ikan, already in control of the Mimori management office, also took control over the Taki management office (in what is now Kanata City's Takiyama district) via one of these armed clashes. He made Taki his base of operations as he continued to grow more powerful in southern Hidachi, becoming a ranking official (*jou**) in Hidachi's government. His descendants took the name of their base, Taki, as their family name and continued to pass down their growing power until they were called chancellors (*daijou*). The Kata family line in Hidachi enjoyed this power until the middle of the era.

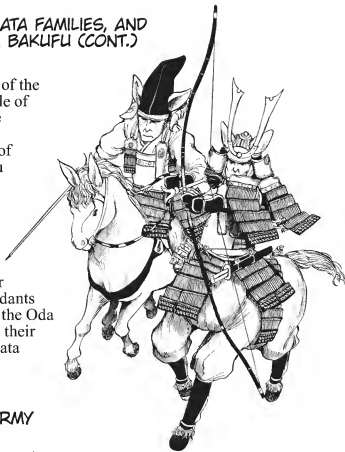
CONFLICT BETWEEN THE EN AND KATA FAMILIES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHINKURA BAKUFU

In the 4th year of Jishou (1180), En no Yoritomo built an army for the purpose of attacking Kata no Kiyomori. The Kantou warrior army, which included some members of the Kata family, applied en masse to join Yoritomo's army. Family allegiances were cast aside during the conflict between the En and Kata families—for instance, En no Yoritomo's wife and her family supported his side even though they were of Kata blood; the aristocratic Satake family fought against Yoritomo despite their own En ancestry; and the Taki family was originally against Yoritomo, but switched sides when the Satake family was defeated.

*One of the land's three administrative positions.

CONFLICT BETWEEN THE EN AND KATA FAMILIES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHINKURA BAKUFU (CONT.)

The Kata family, who were distant relatives of the imperial family, all perished during the battle of Dan no Ura. En no Yoritomo established the Shinkura Bakufu and made his most loyal subordinate, Yada no Tomoie, the guardian of Hidachi. During the fourth year of Kenkyuu (1193), Taki no Yoshimiki's lands were confiscated after he fortified the Taki castle and threatened rebellion. During the same year, his younger brother, Shimozuma Hiromiki, was executed for suspicion that he cursed the Houjou family. As a result, the southern area of Mount Akaba fell under the control of the Yada family. Their descendants changed their family name to Oda and used the Oda castle (now in Kanata City's Oda district) as their base. They remain an important part of Kanata City history.

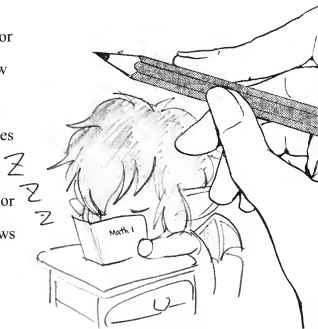


THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE WARRIOR ARMY

The skills and traditions of warriors (such as centaur archery)** were not passed down under Kata no Masakado. Because of this, most historians do not consider him to be a true warrior. The lack of trained warriors became a significant problem due to unrest among the prisoners of war. The prisoners were mostly northern indigenous people who rose up with the rebellion and decline of imperial power. Small bands of skilled centaur archers were established in order to quell the unrest. These specialized archers were used to not only to control unrest, but also to handle instances of fighting between warriors.

***Traditionally referred to as yabusame, as was mounted archery by non-centaurs. It is considered exceptionally difficult to hit a moving object while also in motion, and the technique requires significant training and skill. Today, this skill is only exhibited at traditional yabusame events.*

When En no Yoritomo began building his army prior to the conflict between the En and Kata families, these small bands—typically numbering from a few dozen to a few hundred—quickly grew to number in the tens of thousands. Their ranks expanded to include not only centaurs, but people on horseback. These individuals were aristocrats with the resources to care for a horse, but not necessarily the training of a warrior. Since they lacked skill in horseback archery, they instead developed horseback swordsmanship. This martial innovation forged new warrior families that En no Yoritomo had no choice but to acknowledge as legitimate. As a result, history shows a different picture of warriors than we originally imagined. By the Shinkura era, there were already many types of warriors in existence.



A CentaUr's Life

Hime and her classmates receive the shock of their lives when they meet the new slithery transfer student! Hime is forced to face an old phobia, while the new snake girl tries her best to fit in. Later, a visit with Hime's grandparents reveals some interesting family history.

Welcome to A Centaur's Life!

**WAIT, IT GETS
WEIRDER!**



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